timing for 3 days due to a communication gap. This Vidyalaya has also started functioning from 7.30 A.M. now.

(c) The changed school timings are considered suitable and so there is no proposal to change them.

Basic Education to Adults and Children

4661. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government had decided to make education less rigid;

(b) whether Government had taken a decision to depart from the rigidity of former school education and explore the ways in providing basic education to 300 million illiterate adults and about 59 million children in the age group of 6—14 years;

(c) if so, whether any concrete programme of action has been prepared in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The Government has recently launched the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)—a National Programme for Universal Elementary Education to provide eight years of elementary education to all children in the 6—14 age group by 2010. the objectives of SSA are:

- All 6-14 age children in school/EGS centre/bridge course by 2003;
- All children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007;
- All children complete eight years of schooling by 2010.
- Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life;
- Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010;
- Universal retention by 2010.

SSA also envisages flexible strategies and interventions to provide educational facilities. SSA will cover the entire expanse of the country before March 2002 and the programme in every district will depend upon the District Elementary Education Plan (DEEP) prepared by it as per its specific needs.

The National Literacy Mission (NLM) aims at imparting functional literacy to 15-35 age group in order to achieve the threshold, sustainable level of 75 per cent literacy by 2005.

The campaign model is now accepted as the dominant strategy for eradication of adult literacy in India. These compaigns are area-specific, time-bound, volunteer-based, cost-effective and outcome-oriented. The thrust is on attainment of functional literacy through prescribed forms of literacy and numeracy. The learner is the focal point in the entire process and measurement of learning outcome is continuous, informal, participative and non-threatening.

Apprehension of Sangh Parivar over-running ICSSR

4662. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) has sought the intervention of the Prime Minister to save the institution from the efforts of the Sangh Parivar to overrun it;

(b) if so, the details of requests made by the ICSSR; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure that scholarly and objective research work in the ICSSR is not subordinated to suit any political or ideological requirements?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) It is a fact that the Chairman, ICSSR, has written a letter to the Prime Minister of India asking for certain measures to be taken for betterment of ICSSR. There is however, no mention of the Sangh Parivar in the letter.